PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.

Dudley Council SEND Team – Update to Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment

The SEND Team has made changes to support the delivery of our statutory duties in respect of SEND, in particular, the 20 week timescale for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and the delivery of high quality Education, Health and Care EHCPs in order that we achieve the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

To ensure that the EHC needs assessment process is more robust, we have identified specific Case Officers to manage the EHC needs assessment. They will be responsible for drafting the EHCP, liaising with parents, carers and young people and liaising with schools up until the point where the final EHCP is issued.

This means that we have had to review caseloads for the rest of the Team and have taken the decision to divide the team into two areas so that Case Officers are allocated to either the Early Years/Primary team or the Secondary/Post 16 Team.

For all queries regarding a child with a final EHCP your allocated Case Officer will be your first point of call.

The Early Years and Primary Team is managed by Kelly Warne and the Secondary and Post-16 Team is managed by Rob Bennett.

We tried to keep change to a minimum, but it is important to continue the development of the SEND Service. We will regularly review the changes that we have made alongside our ability to meet our Key Performance Indicators and review of feedback.

This change supports the introduction of two new SEND panels. This will be where decisions regarding whether to commence a statutory assessment and whether to issue a EHC plan will be made. These are multi agency panels, with representation from across education, health and social care partners.

Headteachers and SENCOs are invited to attend and contribute to this decision-making process.